

**Worldview and a
Systems-of-Systems
View of Human Realities**

A Systems Approach to the Study of Humans

1. Spiritual System:

- activity of God: the providence of the Father, the presence of the Son, the Power of the Holy Spirit
- activity of angels
- activity of Satan and the fallen angels

2. Social System:

- inter-personal relationships
- networks and social groups
- societal categories: classes, ethnic groups, castes, tribes
- macro-social systems

3. Cultural Systems:

- symbols
- rituals and myths
- knowledge systems
- worldviews: fundamental assumptions, attitudes and values

4. Personal Systems:

- spiritual
- social
- cultural
- psychological
- biophysical

5. Biological Systems:

- food, health, reproduction, risks,

6. Physical Systems:

- ecological niche
- climate, terrain
- space and time, proxemics

EXEGETING SOCIETIES AND CULTURES

1. Social Systems:

1.1 Dimensions of Social Systems:

- 1.11 *Social*: the definition, allocation and use of relationships. Examine the relationships between individuals, within groups, in the society as a whole, and globally.
- 1.12 *Economic*: the definition, allocation and use of resources. Examine the use of material and nonmaterial resources.
- 1.13 Political: the definition, allocation and use of power. Look at how power is allocated and used.
- 1.14 Legal: the definition, allocation and use of legitimacy. See how legitimacy is symbolized and used.
- 1.15 Function: look at the functions of activity your are observing.

1.2 Levels of Social Analysis:

- 1.21 Interpersonal relationships: roles, statues, communication, etc.
- 1.22 Networks
- 1.23 Groups:
 - kinships groups: marriage patterns, relatives, extended family
 - geographic groups: dorms, neighborhoods, towns
 - associational groups: clubs, gangs, unions, army, churches, committees
- 1.24 Societal categories:
 - classes and interclass relationships
 - ethnic groups, and intra- and inter-ethnic relationships, and migration and assimilation
 - religious groups
- 1.25 Societies:
 - band, tribal, peasant and urban societies
- 1.26 Global Systems:
 - globalization and localization

2. Cultural Systems:

2.1 **Dimensions of culture:**

2.11 *Cognitive*: categories, logic, ideas, beliefs

2.12 *Affective*: feelings, prejudices

2.13 *Evaluative*: judgments regarding 1) truth and falsehood, 2) like and dislike, 3) right and wrong.

2.2 **Levels of culture:**

2.21 Sign systems [semiotics]: examine the different sign systems humans use.

- audio: words, sounds
- visual: print, pictures, signs
- tactile: touch
- taste, etc.

2.22 Myths and rituals: observe the formalized patterns of behavior required or expected in specific situations, and find the paradigmatic stories people believe about reality.

- greetings, partings, beginning and closing functions
- class rituals, sports rituals
- sacred rituals

2.23 Knowledge systems: gather information on the different domains of knowledge, such as technology [how to bake a cake, fix a car, etc.], business, religion, etc.

2.24 Worldview: look at the unquestioned 'givens' which the people have.

- deep cognitive assumptions: related to formation of categories, semantic domains, logics used, nature of reality.
- deep affective assumptions: related to feelings
- deep evaluative assumptions: related to deep values, loyalties and allegiances.

3. Personal Systems:

3.1 **Conscious and subconscious processes**: thoughts, feelings, values

3.2 **Drives, needs, desires**

3.3 **Conflicts, strategies**: ways individuals handle life situations.

4. Biological Sphere:

- food, health, reproduction, risks, etc.

5. Physical Sphere:

- ecology, climate, terrain
- proxemics: time and space


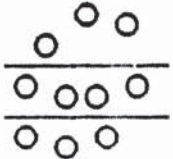

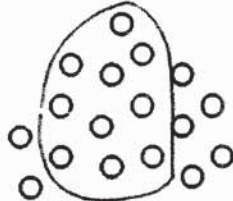
6. Spiritual Sphere:

6.1 **God's work in the event.**

6.2 **Activities of angels and demons.**

6.3 **'Spirit' of corporate systems.**

6.4 **Human spirits.**

	GROUP	INDIVIDUAL
HOMOGENEOUS CULTURE	<p>TYPES OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION</p>  <p>TRIBE</p>	 <p>CLASS SYSTEM</p>
CULTURAL PLURALISM	 <p>CASTE SYSTEM</p>	 <p>URBAN</p>

TRIBALISM

Organic View of Society

- holistic view of the world
- group orientation
- allow individual differences



MODERNITY

Mechanistic View of Society

- specialization
- fragmented view of world
- individualism
- stress conformity

TYPES OF SOCIAL ORGANIZ.

- Family
- Clan
- Tribe
- Voluntary associations
- Social hierarchy
- Community ties stressed

- Family
- Ethnic group
- Caste system
- Contractual associations
- Strong individualism
- Networks
- Geographic units:
 - * neighborhds.
 - * nation

EVANGELISM

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Resident, participant evangelism | Friendship evangelism |
| Kinship networks | Lifestyle evangelism |
| Group decisions and follow-up | Personal witness |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Resident, participant evangelism | Friendship evangelism |
| Kinship networks | Building caring communities |
| Group decisions and follow-up | Mass media for specific audiences |
| Build intergroup fellowship | Lifestyle evangelism |

WORLDVIEWS

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| SACRAMENTAL | CONSENSUAL |
| - world is good | - world is good/evil |
| - truth = eternal | - truth = absolutes |
| - high god | - personalized god |
| - sin = violation of cosmic order | - sin = violation of personal ethics |
| - leads to shame | - leads to guilt |
| - tradition is sacred | - freedom is sacred |
| - uniform worldview | - shared worldview |
| * worship tradition | * worship class |

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| COVENANTIAL | CONTRACTUAL |
| - world is evil, we are good | - world is chaotic |
| - truth = group consensus | - truth is personal, inner, private |
| - God of the group | - God is inside/ self |
| - truth is dying out | - stress personal fulfillment/realization |
| - stress fellowship | - sin = violation of self |
| - sin = violation of the group norms | - sacred = private, inner |
| - jealousy, witchcraft | - seek leaders, gurus |
| * worship ethnicity | * worship self |

TYPES OF CHURCHES

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| HIGH CHURCH | DENOM. CHURCH |
| - world is good and orderly | - world outside is basically good |
| - truth is eternal | - truth is our beliefs |
| - high concept of God | - work to keep consensus, so fadish uniformity |
| - sin = violation of the cosmic order | - sin = violate the group consensus |
| - stress rituals | - stress teaching and building fellowship |

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|---|---|
| ETHNIC CHURCH | URBAN CHURCH |
| - world outside is evil, inside the church it is good | - world outside is chaotic |
| - stress ethnic identity | - truth is personal |
| - sin = leaving ones ethnic identity | - message is self fulfillment |
| - jealousies and heresy hunts | - sin = violation of one's self, or other self. |
| - stress fellowship | - stress inner piety and feelings |

CHURCH NAMES AND SONGS

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Named after cosmic symbols: | Named after group: |
| - Calvary | - Baptist |
| - Christ | - Presbyterian |
| - Zion | - Methodist |
| Song: | Song: |
| "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." | |
| Named after ethnicity: | Named after "Big Men": |
| - Armenian ... | - Oral Roberts U |
| - German Luther. | - Billy Graham association |
| - Swedish Bapt. | - Fuller Sem. |
| Song: | Song: |
| "Hold the Fort for I am coming." | "Fight the good fight with all your might." |

TRENDS

